

## Bay-Friendly

## Gardening Basics



Did you know that you can create a sustainable, healthy

and beautiful garden using Bay-Friendly practices. This approach works well with Morgan Hill's climate and includes practices that conserve valuable resources, enhance local wildlife and reduce waste and greenhouse gases. Learn more at the Bay-Friendly Gardening Basics workshop being held on Saturday, May 15th from 10am-1pm at the Centennial Recreation Center. This workshop will provide an overview of design and maintenance considerations and practices that will help you make smart choices at the nursery. All participants will receive the Bay-Friendly Gardening Guide. Please call 918-4640 or visit:

[www.reducewaste.org](http://www.reducewaste.org) to register for the workshop. A \$20 fee will be collected at registration.



## Bicycling for Your Health and the Planet's



All the rain we have had lately makes it hard to think about bicycling anywhere, but May is here and that means better weather. No more using the rain as an excuse to stay inside! May is also "National Bike Month". Why not get out in the gorgeous weather and use your bike to take you places?

If you've been looking for motivation or just need to change up your exercise routine (or start one), here are two ways to kick off your need to pedal:

- Join the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's "**Team Bike Challenge**" May 1st through May 31st. All you have to do is form a team of 2 to 5 people (one per-

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son has to be a "novice," which is someone that hardly ever uses a bicycle). Points are earned when team members use their bicycle instead of a car. You can affiliate your team with your work organization to earn even more credit. You don't have to ride together to earn points. The team with the most points at the end of the month wins prizes and bragging rights!

- May 13th is "**Bike to Work Day**". Dust off your bike, grab your bottle of water and put the pedal to the metal, or pavement, that is. All over the Bay Area, including Santa Clara County, people are getting ready to commute to work via bicycle. If you work in San Jose, try out the beautiful Coyote Creek Trail with some of your Morgan Hill co-commuters who also work in San Jose. Check to see if your workplace has shower facilities and request that Bike to Work Day be a



## City Beautification Day Coming in May



Saturday, May 15th is City Beautification Day, an opportunity for you to join in beautifying our City. We have an assortment of projects available from planting to trimming to picking up litter. Spend a morning working with your friends and neighbors to improve Morgan Hill. We'll meet at City Hall at 8am to receive assignments. Participants are invited to a free celebratory BBQ lunch at City Hall after the event. Call 778-6480 for more info or to preregister.



### New Carbon Diet Club Starting In May

In just 3 meetings, learn how to reduce your carbon footprint and create a more sustainable future for Morgan Hill. Upcoming classes will be held on Tuesdays, 5/11 - 5/25 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Classes meet at the Centennial Recreation Center and childcare is available. Call 782-2128 to preregister.



dress down day for those that bike to work. VTA is also bicycle friendly. So, if you get tired, there are easy

ways to get your bicycle on the bus. There will also be energizing stations set up throughout the county and instead of your typical coffee and doughnut breakfast, you can grab healthy foods and drinks as well as a smile and cheer from SVBC volunteers. At every station riders can also receive a free Bike to Work Day tote bag filled with biking and safety tips.

For more information about Bike to Work Day and a map of energizer stations, visit:

<http://www.bikesiliconvalley.org/btwd>

Bicycling is a healthy and environmentally friendly transportation alternative and you will be surprised at the many places

you can go on a bicycle like the farmer's market, a weekend lunch, the movies, and even the grocery store for that last minute item.



### "Cash for Appliances" Appliance Rebates



Rebates from the California Energy Commissions are currently available to California residents for refrigerators, clothes washers and room air conditioners. These rebates are offered in addition to the regular rebates offered by PG&E and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. By combining available rebates, you can receive rebates up to: Clothes washer- \$275; Refrigerator- \$235; Room Air conditioner- \$125. The offer ends May 23rd. Rebate applications must be postmarked by June 25th. Visit: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/recovery/energystar.html> or <http://www.pge.com/myhome/saveenergymoney/rebates/appliance/> for more information.



## This Month's Green Living Tip:

### Ridesharing Rewards

The fossil fuels consumed by commuters in Morgan Hill contribute as much as 74% to our community carbon footprint. Want to make a difference? Try carpooling with one or two other commuters - you'll save time and money. Ridesharing brings a fun and social alternative to driving alone. Sharing the ride also means sharing the cost of gas and the driving. Imagine cutting your gas expenses in half!



You can also receive tax benefits, free transit passes and other incentives. Many employers even offer a guaranteed ride home to commuters who rideshare. Give it a try! Visit [www.511.org](http://www.511.org) to find a rideshare match and to check out incentives for commuters. More importantly, you will have more time and money for yourself and your family and help reduce Morgan Hill's carbon emissions.



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